

JUNE 6TH - 11TH, 2017

AT THE CASINO DEL SOL, TUCSON, AZ

2017 USBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

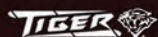


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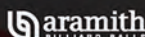


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The USBA Newsletter 3-Cushion Billiard News

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Houston Qualifier Sends One To Nationals

Story and pictures courtesy 3CushionBilliards.com

The USBA National Qualifying Tournament held at Goodays Billiards in Houston Texas on April 9 ended in dramatic fashion, with **Ahmet Ozan (right)** defeating Jorge Gonzalez 25-24 to win entry into the USBA 3-Cushion National Championship. Players pictured below (L to R) Doug Deitel, Ahmet Ozan, Jorge Gonzalez and Jay Karahan

Turkish player Ahmet Ozan may be new to the Houston area but he's certainly not new to billiards. He has been playing at Goodays Billiards on Bellaire Blvd. for some time now and is known by many as a fierce competitor with a great depth of knowledge. He recently joined the USBA with the purpose of playing in the upcoming National Championship in June in Tucson, Arizona. Here is how he reached his goal.

On Sunday Ahmet's skills were on full display as he went undefeated in the qualifier event, capping his victory in the final match against Jorge Gonzalez who placed second. In that decisive game, in a race to 25, Ahmet jumped out ahead quickly with a run of 7 in the third inning. Jorge battled back and eventually took the lead. Then it was Ahmet's turn to fight back! Although trailing, but stayed in the hunt, until finally catching Jorge who had first reached 24. With both players tied and on the hill, in the tense closing moments, it was Ahmet who prevailed 25-24 to claim the victory. His high run of 7 was best in the event.

If Ahmet can sharpen his game even more he may be ready to surprise the field when he plays in his first USBA National Championship at the Casino Del Sol Resort. Congratulations and best of luck to Ahmet Ozan, our Houston National Qualifier.



John Jacobson Wins 2017 Mike Kelly Memorial

The 2017 Mike Kelly Memorial Tournament was held April 28-30 at Jake's Game Room in Marshalltown, Iowa. This year John Jacobson came out on top ahead of former USBA National Champion George Ashby.

The order of finishes and prizes to the finalists:

1st	John Jacobson (top right)	\$615
2nd	George Ashby (bottom right)	\$480
3rd	James Richards	\$360
4th	Fred Lamers	\$270
5th	Rus Rosenberger	\$180
6th	Bob Jacobson	\$120

In addition to the prizes awarded to the six finalists several other payouts were made to players.

\$150 for high run out of the money to Tim Mumma.

The You Suck Prize (Most Vacuuming aka losses) also to Tim Mumma for another \$75

The Kelley family drew a name from the remaining non-money winners and Jose Jimenez won \$150

Along with the added 50% match money, the total payout was \$2400.

Thanks go out to the following that make this tournament possible: Ben's Tire, Tom Paley, Joe Van Vooren and Tim Mumma. Special thanks goes out to the wonderful Kelley family who continue to sponsor this event in loving memory of Mike Kelley.



President's Desk

By the time you read these words, the USBA Nationals will be underway at the Casino del Sol Resort in Tucson, Arizona. We certainly believe that it will be a great event. There are several other events that will occur over the summer. We are sending Pedro Piedrabuena and Hugo Patiño to the World Games in July. The Verhoeven Open is set for August. But, for this column, I need to focus on another matter.

The quadrennial election for USBA office will soon be upon us. To be eligible to run for a position on the Board of Directors, a candidate must be a member of the USBA and must permanently reside in the United States. The nomination period begins August 1 and ends on September 1. A

candidate must be nominated by another USBA member. Nominations should be sent to secretary@usba.net. The balloting takes place by mail from October 1 to December 31.

The USBA needs, and wants, candidates with energy and vision. Now is your chance. Run for office, or nominate a candidate, or support an office seeker. Above all, vote. The USBA is an organization designed to be run by the members for the benefit of the members. The USBA's purpose is simple: to promote carom billiards in America. Join the effort. Become involved. The future of the USBA is in your hands and in your vote.

Hard Times Billiards Sends Two To National Championship

Ho Si Ahn (right) and Vickie Pineda (left) placed 1st and 2nd respectively in the National Qualifier tournament held at Hard Times Billiards. Each player was awarded paid entry into the USBA 3-Cushion National Championship to be held in Tucson, Arizona June 6-11.

USBA 3-Cushion National Qualifier - Held at Hard Times Billiards in Bellflower, CA									
Top 2 goes to the Nationals	Cervantes	Don Hiep	Ho Sik Ahn	Tillotson	Ramirez	Pineda	WIN/LOSS	TOTAL POINTS	FINAL RANKINGS
Cervantes		21	24	30	30	16	2/3	121	4
Don Hiep	30		15	30	30	14	3/2	119	3
Ho Sik Ahn	30	30		30	30	30	5/0	150	1
Tillotson	26	22	23		18	24	0/5	113	6
Ramirez	23	11	18	30		15	1/4	97	5
Pineda	30	30	15	30	30		4/1	135	2



The United States Billiard Association (USBA) introduces McDermott Cue as the official cue sponsor of the USBA.

“We are very excited to begin this new partnership with McDermott,” said USBA president Mazin Shooni. “McDermott is one of the top cue-makers in the world. Their recent debut of a cue line designed specifically for carom billiards made McDermott a natural fit to partner with us and promote the game.” The USBA is the governing body for the sport of carom billiards in the United States holding the annual 3-cushion national championship and sending players to International events around the world. As a non-profit organization, the USBA relies on sponsors like McDermott for their generous support.

Shooni is excited to see McDermott step into carom with this new sponsorship and with their new line of carom cues. USBA members are dedicated and passionate about carom billiards and especially the game of 3-cushion. According to Shooni, he sees that same dedication and passion for the billiard sports reflected in McDermott Cue. The pairing of USBA and McDermott will introduce carom to many new players throughout the United States and help to increase the popularity of this unique and challenging discipline.

“We are excited to help advance the game of carom in any way we can,” said Greg Knight, owner of McDermott. “We’ve recognized that carom has grown in popularity over the past several years. We hope to better support the game of carom with this new sponsorship and our new line of carom cues.”

About McDermott: Formed in 1975, McDermott Cue is an American cue manufacturer that is headquartered in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. McDermott pool cues and high-performance shafts are some of the most recognized products in the billiard industry. They are known for their quality construction, exotic woods & materials, intricate inlays and limitless customization options. McDermott’s carom cues are available for purchase on McDermott’s website at www.mcdermottcue.com/carom.

About the USBA: The USBA is a non-profit organization that is the official governing body for carom billiards in the United States. The USBA was formed in 1988 from two prior organizations, the Billiard Federation of the USA and the American Billiard Association. The USBA is a member of the Confederación Panamericana de Billard (CPB), the governing body for billiards in North and South America. The CPB is part of the Union Mondiale de Billard (UMB), the world governing body for carom billiards. Visit the USBA web site at www.usba.net.

What's the Right Shot?

by Phil Panzera
Contributing Writer



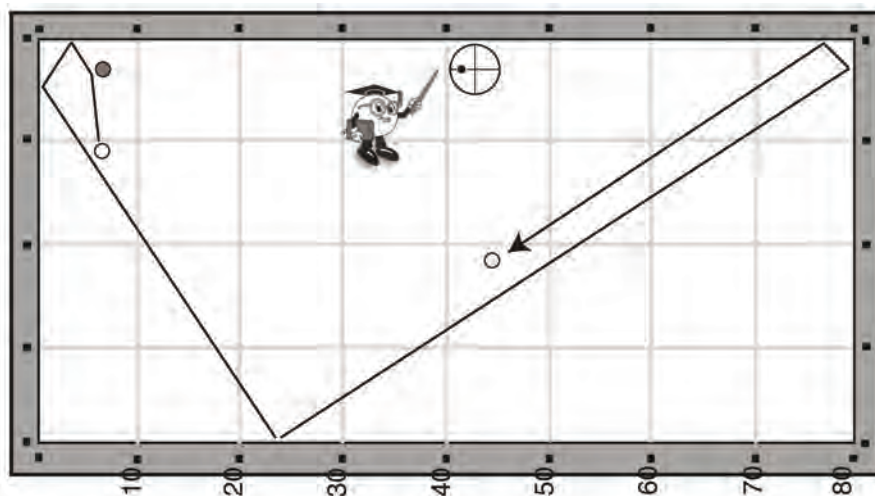
Many players would see the gigantic red ball in the corner and a sort of brain freeze occurs. Analysis stops, and they enter "Gotta go for it!" mode. Yes, you can draw the cue ball off the left side of the white to the top long rail, but it's not the best option. Playing this shot with lots of draw, or as a spin shot, can be difficult to control.

Looking at the red ball now, many players might also dislike the thin hit required off the left side, when there is a natural fuller hit 3-rail shot off the right side. The harder thin hit off the left side turns out to be a better choice though. Why?

Because the yellow is a big ball. Play the shot as a 5-rail shot and you have two chances to score. This also allows you to hit the ball slightly fuller, which helps with your accuracy. Another advantage is that by playing this shot with make speed you'll have all three balls close to the center of the table, with a good likelihood of a short angle follow-up.

The key lesson here is that big balls aren't always in corners. Whenever you're playing a shot towards a ball near the center of the table, always check to see what will happen if you miss the shot long

or short. Often you'll find that missing it on a certain side gives you a two-way shot, and then you can greatly increase your chance of scoring by favoring the shot towards that side, and using enough speed to make it both ways. In fact, whenever you have an equal chance to play a shot either 3-rails or 5-rails, the 5-rail path is generally more predictable and easier, as the extra cushions are frequently "self-correcting" if you're a little long or short.



Upcoming USBA Tournaments

June 6-11

USBA 3-Cushion National Championship
Casino Del Sol
5655 West Valencia Rd
Tucson, AZ 85757 USA
Contact Mazin Shooni (248) 910-4466

July 21-23

The Tacoma Billiard Federation Presents:
The 2017 Mike Fahey NW Open Handicap Tourney
Entry Fee is \$ 80.00 24 Players is the maximum,
Over 18 players will be three flights.
The format will be Handicap based upon USBA Billiards per
Inning Standards.
More information contact: Ed Brasfield

(253) 468-9839, or email him at Bfasteddie41@aol.com.

August 07-13

Verhoeven Open - Carom Cafe Billiards
Flushing, NY (718) 358 8585
Featuring: Torbjorn Blomdahl, Frederic Caudron, Jae Ho Cho,
Sung Won Choi, Dick Jaspers, Daniel Sanchez
Info call: Charlie Brown (646) 528-3238

October 12-15

Professor-Q-Ball Rushville Event
Entry fee \$150 - can be paid by PayPal using
geagebroker.com
Players meeting on Thursday at 2pm-Play starts at 3pm
Contact: Gary Eake at (920) 420-1303
Email-geagebroker.com

Parker Hess Memorial Attracts Full Field of 24

The fourth annual Parker Hess Memorial 3-Cushion Billiard Tournament was held at the Ashland, Oregon Elks Lodge on May 5 - 7, 2017. Aided by a donation of \$1,000.00 to the prize fund from Bob Tracy and a 50% match from the USBA, we were able to attract a full field of 24 players for the first time in several years.

Players, who came from as far as Edmonds, Washington and San Diego, California and everywhere in between, were divided into three eight-person round-robin flights of mixed abilities. Each flight consisted of 4 B/B+ players, 2 C+ players, and 2 C players. Three separate single elimination finals were held for B/B+, C+, and C players. The top two B/B+ finishers from each flight were seeded into a 6-player B final. For both the C+ players and the C players, the one top finisher in each flight qualified for a three-person single elimination final.

Pictured above the B Finalists: L to R, Raye Raskin, Ramses



Verlinden, Dustin Tran, Vinh Truong, Robert Spicknall, Ertan Tarhan

Three of the B players finished with perfect records of 7-0 and 175 total points, and all were from different flights, so there could be no head to head consideration. Consequently, these players were seeded according to Points Against. Robert Spicknall from Seattle and Dustin Tran, a young player new to our tournament from Vancouver, WA were seeded 1 and 2 respectively and received byes into the second finals round. In the first finals round, Ramses Verlinden of Portland, OR defeated Ertan Tarhan from Seattle with an excellent game of 25 points in 21 innings. In the other first finals round match, Vinh Truong of Portland defeated Raye Raskin from the San Francisco Bay Area. In the next round, there was a very tight game in which Vinh Truong narrowly beat Dustin Tran 25-24. Robert Spicknall went on to win first place over Vinh Truong, and Dustin Tran beat Ramses Verlinden for third place with an excellent 18 inning game. Dustin also won the High Run prize

for the B prelims with a run of 7.

Pictured below the C+ Finalists: L to R, John Fleming, Rudy Vigil, JR Greenlee



In the C+ Final, Rudy Vigil of Medford, OR was top seed with a bye into the final match. He defeated JR Greenlee, also of Medford, who got to the final match by defeating John Fleming of Portland. Rudy also won the C+ High Run prize in the prelims with a run of 5.

Here are the C Finalists: L to R, Ron Hopkins, Richard Kenney, Victor Lee



Finally, in the C division Final, top seed Victor Lee of Stockton, CA took 1st place by defeating Ron Hopkins, from Edmonds, WA. In addition to his second place finish, Ron also had the High Run in the C prelims with a run of 4. Richard Kenney, from Boise, ID took third place. It was Richard's first tournament here in Ashland, and we hope he will be back for many more.

Marc Smith was very involved in planning and running the event. Darrell Stutesman from Tacoma came to help out. Our tournaments benefit from the efforts from Tim Poole of the Tacoma Elks. We are grateful to Bob Tracy for all of his support and to the USBA for matching our donations. Thanks are due to Tommy Thomsen for donating his entry fee after deciding not to play. Finally, many thanks are owed to the officers and staff of the Ashland, Oregon Elks Lodge # 944.

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A players. \$300.00 30 points

B players. \$275.00 27 points

C players. \$250.00 25 points

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Dress code for last 16 players

Dress shirt, vest, bow tie, black pants, black shoes and socks.

No exceptions please.

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SURPRISE PRIZE FOR THE WORST 3 PLAYERS.

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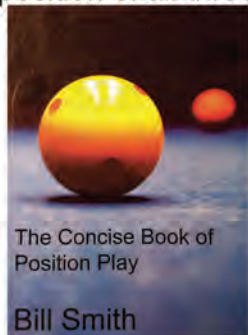
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My latest endeavor to raise the awareness and importance of position play in the "Modern day" game of 3 Cushion Billiards is a 120 minute DVD entitled, "The Secrets EXPOSED Consecutive Scoring for a Higher Average". This DVD is a compilation of video starting positions melding with narrative diagrams to instruct the player how to take advantage of some of the most common positions on the table. \$44.95 plus \$4.95 S&H